

FLATWORM (PLATYHELMINTHES, TRICLADIDA) RECORDS FROM COLONSAY, INCLUDING TWO SPECIES NEW TO SCOTLAND.

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On the 24th August 2005 a healthy population of the New Zealand flatworm, *Arthurdendyus triangulatus* (Dendy), was observed under stones and pieces of wood within the formal gardens of Colonsay House. The New Zealand flatworm is a well known species, indeed has achieved the status of notoriety as a potential pest (e.g. Jones & Boag, 2001), and is widespread in northern Britain. It has been found recently on Coll by Brian Boag but not recorded before now from Colonsay (Hugh Jones, pers. comm.).

A closer look at the surrounding wooded policies of the estate revealed the presence of two other alien terrestrial flatworms. One example of *Kontikia andersoni* Jones and two *Kontikia ventrolineata* (Dendy) were under pieces of wood near the glasshouses. The first of these species is of unknown native origin but most likely Australia or New Zealand; the latter is from Australia (Jones, 2005). Four more specimens of *K. ventrolineata* were discovered by searching under the bark of felled spruce trees. Both *Kontikia* species are previously unrecorded from Scotland. There are only a few records indicating their presence in England and the Irish Republic. Field identification was aided by a recent article with excellent colour photographs (Jones, 2005). However, the *K. ventrolineata* specimens had a slightly bluish tinge to the dorsal stripes and could potentially be confused with *Australopapifica coxii* (Fletcher & Hamilton) that is characterised by blue stripes. Consequently, examples were sent to Hugh Jones for confirmation.

The flatworms are not the only Antipodean creatures that are thriving on Colonsay. The most prominent non-native invertebrate in the Colonsay estate woods is the landhopper, *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* Hunt (Crustacea, Amphipoda), thought to be native to Australia. They are so abundant within the decomposing leaves as to make the ground surface appear to move when the litter layer is disturbed. This animal is a relative of the familiar shoreline sandhoppers but is typically associated with dry leaf litter. It was first discovered and described from the Scilly Isles in 1925 and is now widespread in southwest England, with isolated colonies also in southern Ireland and Colonsay (Friend & Richardson, 1986). The landhopper was not recorded from Colonsay House until about 1976 although the gardens were landscaped in the 1930s. This process incorporated exotic plants such as tree ferns, eucalypts and *Crinodendron*. It is possible that alien invertebrates were introduced to Colonsay at this time.

The first arrival of flatworms and landhoppers on the island is likely to be linked to the period of greatest activity of plant movement. Material would have been imported directly from the southern hemisphere or translocated from other gardens within Britain or Europe on one or more

occasions. It would be interesting in relation to Colonsay to consult records of importation and plant movements to, from or between various other gardens during the twentieth century. The New Zealand flatworm and the *Kontikia* species may have been resident on Colonsay undetected for a considerable length of time.

Currently there is an interest in alien wildlife that is producing more records of non-native plants and animals in general, partly stimulated by the Glasgow Natural History Society conference 'Alien Species – Friends or Foes' in 2001 (see Supplement to volume 23). The specimens of *Kontikia* have been added to the Hunterian Museum (Zoology) collections (accession numbers: 127244, 127245) and the records with photographs can be viewed on <<http://www.huntsearch.gla.ac.uk/>>.

Acknowledgement

Dr Hugh Jones (Scientific Associate of the Natural History Museum, London) kindly confirmed the identification of *Kontikia ventrolineata*.

References

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Jones, H. (2005). Identification, British land flatworms. *British Wildlife* **16**(3), 189-194.
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THE SLENDER BRINDLE IN WEST CENTRAL SCOTLAND

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The Slender Brindle (*Apamea scolopacina*) is a moth of woodland rides and clearings where its larvae feed on woodland grasses. It is chiefly found in England and Wales but extends to Dumfries and Galloway (Waring et al., 2003).

Two adult males caught in a Skinner light trap which I ran at the Visitor Centre of Mugdock Country Park Centre (NS 548779) on 30th July 2004 were apparently the first records for central Scotland. However, it has since become apparent that the species is well established in the area and I have recorded it at three separate locations in 2005. Fourteen adults were caught in a Skinner light trap run at Kyber Cottage at the end of Mugdock Wood (NS 540772) on 25th July 2005. Two more were caught in a Skinner Trap at an Introduction to Moth Trapping and Identification run by Butterfly Conservation at the David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle (NN 520014) on 29th July, 2005 and another was caught at the Visitor Centre of Mugdock Country Park Centre on 9th August, 2005.

Reference

- Waring, P., Townsend, M. and Lewington, R. (2003). *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*, British Wildlife Publishing.